

29 November 2018

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Ref: H201807340

Dear [REDACTED]

### Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) of 1 November 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*Did New Zealand have a delegation at the 8th Conference of the Parties (COP8) to the World Health Organization's Framework Convention?*

*If so:*

- 1. Who attended?*
- 2. What was the cost to taxpayers (please provide a breakdown)?*
- 3. Did the NZ delegation support the motion to ban media? If so, why?*

Ms Jane Chambers, Manager, Tobacco Control Programme and Mr Brendon Baker, Senior Advisor, Tobacco Control Programme, both employees of the Ministry, attended the Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8) as part of the New Zealand delegation.

Attendance at these international sessions enables the Ministry to engage with officials from other countries in relation to tobacco control, build relationships, share knowledge and bring those learnings back to New Zealand. Attendance also supports the Ministry's obligation as a party to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and further supports the Ministry's role as Government's chief advisor on tobacco control.

The costs associated with this attendance are in accordance with Ministry guidelines relating to international travel and are as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Flights	\$11,241.87
Accommodation (2 people 10 nights)	\$4,864.92
Meals	\$782.78
Miscellaneous	\$22.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,912.25</b>

*\*Please note that transport in Geneva is free and attendees utilised buses, trams and trains.*

No vote was held to exclude the media and public from the Conference of the Parties (COP) proceedings. The COP decision on whether sessions are open to the media and public was decided by consensus of all Parties. The decision made at COP8 to exclude media and public from the various committees is consistent with decisions made in past COPs.

Further information relating to COP8 can be found at the following address:

<http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/en/>.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Rainger', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr William Rainger  
**Acting Deputy Director-General**  
**Population Health and Prevention**

cc: [requests@taxpayers.org.nz](mailto:requests@taxpayers.org.nz)